

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7039

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1382

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CO

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ

REF: STATE 29079

1. INVITATION COVERED BY REFTEL WAS EXTENDED THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTER TODAY. I HAVE APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 AT 11:30 AM TO DISCUSS PERSONALLY WITH HIM HIS REACTION AFTER HE HAS HAD TIME TO CONSIDER INVITATION. I HAVE EVERY EXPECTATION THAT IT WILL BE FAVORABLE.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HIS OWN PERSONAL OPINION IS THAT THE MOST SUITABLE DATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, SHOULD LOPEZ ACCEPT, WOULD BE IN LAST HALF OF 1975.

3. I STRESSED OUR DESIRE TO HAVE JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT AND SAID WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GOC'S THOUGHTS OF TIMING FOR SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT. MINISTER SAID THAT THIS COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE PRESIDENT WHEN I SAW HIM ON MONDAY.

4. MY OWN PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ANNOUNCEMENT TIMING IS THAT IT SHOULD BE DONE VERY SOON AND PRIOR RPT PRIOR TO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF SECRETARY'S LA VISIT, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS. IDEAL WOULD BE TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE VISIT WITH SPECIFIC DATE, AND I THINK WE HAVE SOME CHANCE OF AGREEING ON THAT SOON (SEE PARA 5 BELOW). IF IT TURNS OUT WE CANNOT, I WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE NEVERTHELESS NOT RPT NOT DELAY ANNOUNCEMENT
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BUT MAKE ONE SOONEST SAYING INVITATION EXTENDED AND ACCEPTED

FOR DATE LATER IN THE YEAR TO BE DETERMINED. I WOULD LIKE
AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE THAT TO PRESIDENT WHEN I SEE HIM ON MONDAY,
IF OPPORTUNITY AND CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE THAT INDICATED.

5. IT WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE, USEFUL AND TIMESAVING IF WHEN
I MEET WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ ON MONDAY I COULD GIVE HIM CONCRETE
SUGGESTIONS ON TIMING PER PARA 2 REFTTEL, ALWAYS ASSUMING ,
OF COURSE, HE ACCEPTS INVITATION IN PRINCIPLE. LOPEZ WILL
VERY LIKELY EXPECT THAT WE HAVE SOME THOUGHTS AS TO TIMING,
AND IF HE TELLS ME HE ACCEPTS INVITATION HE WILL WANT TO HEAR
US SUGGESTIONS. IT WOULD BE AWKWARD, AND REDUCE EFFECTIVENESS
OF INVITATION'S IMPACT IF I CANNOT RESPOND IN SOME WAY AND HAVE
TO WAIT SOME ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PROPOSALS. IF ON THE OTHER
HAND I CAN RESPOND TO AN ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE IMMEDIATELY
WITH SOME CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS AND EXPLORE DATES WITH HIM IT
WOULD BE EFFECTIVE US "STYLE".

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT I BE SUPPLIED PRIOR TO MY MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 17 WITH SUGGESTIONS
AS TO TIMING AND AUTHORITY TO EXPLORE DATES WITH HIM.
VAKY

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